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tal; here he remained several years and here he made the acquaintance of Captain Grant, then employed in the family leather business at this place. The career of General Horace Porter is too well known to call for extended comment. He comes of a prominent Pennsylvania family (his father was twice governor of the state) of Irish origin. He graduated at West Point in 1860, like Parker served on Grant's staff, won distinction by his service, and like Parker served later as Grant's executive secretary. Unless Mr. Lacher made a mistake (a thing which the similarity of the names would readily account for) in reporting Mr. Evans' recollections, it seems evident that the latter in old age memory confused General Parker, whom he doubtless knew, with General Horace Porter.

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## THE PRESERVATION OF WISCONSIN'S FIRST CAPITOL

The state house at Old Belmont, which was moved from its original site across the public highway about thirty years ago and used for the main building of a barn, has been moved back to its former site and is now in process of restoration.

A bill was introduced in the Wisconsin legislature of 1917 asking for an appropriation to purchase two acres of land, including the site of the old capitol, move the building back to its former site, and restore it as nearly as possible to its original shape.

The bill asked for \$12,000; had this sum been appropriated, the park would have been enclosed with an appropriate fence, planted with trees, a care-taker's lodge erected, and such other improvements begun as would have made it one of the most attractive and interesting places in the state. But so much interest was being centered on the impending war that for a while it seemed doubtful whether any appropriation would be made. As finally passed the bill carried an appropriation of only \$3,000. This sum was so much less than had been asked for that the question of abandoning the project was seriously considered. But the Commission felt assured that if the work was begun and carried out as far as the money appropriated would allow, future legislatures would appropriate sufficient funds to carry out the plan originally intended.

There was much delay in procuring a clear title to the land. It was found that one David Wright, well known to the older citizens of this locality, kept a saloon near the old capitol building, some fifty years ago. The building in which the saloon was kept was burned down many years ago. It appeared that he had some claim on the lot on which his saloon stood, and when the farm was sold this lot was excepted. It was also found that a number of Wright's heirs were still living in different parts of the country, and it took over a year to procure quitclaim deeds from them.

Considering the hard usage the old capitol has undergone since it was built eighty-three years ago, it is still in a fairly good condition. With the exception that the lower floor and the battlement had been entirely removed and that a portion of one of the sills had to be renewed, the frame work was found to be as solid as on the day it was first put in. It is said that the lumber used in the building was brought from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, down the Ohio and up the Mississippi by steamboat to Galena and hauled by team to the site of the old capitol.

The Belmont Capitol Commission, appointed by Governor Philipp, composed of State Chief Engineer John G. D. Mack, Insurance Commissioner Platt Whitman of Madison, and M. P. Rindlaub of Platteville, held a meeting at the old capitol on October 17, 1919 and took the necessary steps for restoring the building as much as the small portion of the appropriation left will permit.

The building erected for the territorial supreme court is in the immediate vicinity and is still in a good state of preservation. It was remodeled somewhat and used for many years after the capital was changed to Madison as a residence by the late Charles Dunn, who was at that time chief justice of Wisconsin. It was in this building that the first governor of the state of Wisconsin, Nelson Dewey, was married to Miss Kate, daughter of Judge Dunn.

The present owner of the building has just completed a new residence, and unless steps are taken by the state to procure the old building and move it to the lot now occupied by the old capitol, it may soon be torn down. It is to be hoped than an appropriation may be made to procure title to this building before it is too late.

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